

Application No. 10/014,452

REMARKS

The specification has been amended at page 1 by inserting the missing application serial number and filing dates in the Cross Reference To Related Applications.

Claims 1 and 25 have been amended by incorporating the subject matter of claims 3 and 20 therein. Claims 2, 3 and 20 have thereby been cancelled.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

Review and reconsideration on the merits are further requested.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as Indefinite. Applicants submit that use of negative limitations are well-known and allowed under US patent practice. However, in order to advance prosecution on the merits, Applications have deleted the negative limitations and inserted the elements of claim 3 into claims 1 and 25. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 12, 14-16, 18 and 20-23 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Schlueter, Jr. et al. In response Applicants traverse the rejection.

Claims 1 and 25 have been amended by incorporating the subject matter of claim 3 therein. Applicants submit that Schlueter, Jr., et al. does not teach or suggest the claimed plasticizers of previous claim 3, including alcohols, amines, thiols, organic acids, oligomers, and mixtures thereof. Therefore, Applicants submit that the present claims are not anticipated by the reference.

In addition, Applications submit that the present claims are not rendered obvious in view of the cited reference. The reference at col. 10, lines 28-29 teaches a plasticizer of dialkyl phthalate. Applicants submit that the reference does not teach the claimed plasticizers. In addition, Applicants submit that faced with the teachings of a plasticizer of dialkyl phthalate, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to change this plasticizer into one of the claimed plasticizers absent some teaching or suggestion. Therefore, Applicants submit that the present claims are not anticipated, nor rendered obvious in view of the cited reference.

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Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 12, 14-16, 18 and 20-23 under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Schlueter, Jr. et al.

Claims 3, 4, 7-11, 19 and 24 have been rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Schlueter, Jr. et al. in view of Arnold, et al. In response, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Arnold, et al. teaches an adhesive. However, Arnold, et al. does not teach or suggest use of the adhesive as an adhesive between seaming members as claimed, or as taught by Schlueter, Jr. et al. More specifically, Arnold, et al. does not teach or suggest use of an adhesive to seam a plurality of mutually mating elements which join in an interlocking relationship to form a seam. Instead, the reference teaches use of an adhesive to bond plastic substrates together (col. 1, lines 11-14). Therefore, the reference teaches use of an adhesive to bond substrates on top of one another, but does not teach or suggest use of an adhesive to bond two ends of a belt member together in a seam as claimed, and as taught by Schlueter, Jr. et al. Therefore, Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to look to the teachings of Arnold, et al. to produce an adhesive between mutually mating elements which join in an interlocking relationship to form a seam.

In addition, Schlueter, Jr. relates to a polyimide belt, and the present claims have been amended to include the recitation that the belt comprises a polyimide substrate. Arnold, et al. does not teach or suggest that the adhesive described therein can be used with a polyimide material. Instead, the only specific example of a material which can be used with the adhesive of Arnold, et al., is set forth at col. 5, line 18, wherein Arnold, et al. teaches use of a polyester coated surface. Therefore, Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to use an adhesive taught for use with a polyester material, as an adhesive for use with a polyimide material as taught by Schlueter, Jr. et al., and as claimed.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the present application is not rendered obvious in view of the cited combination. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3, 4, 7-11, 19 and 24 under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Schlueter, Jr. et al. in view of Arnold, et al.

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Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Schlueter, Jr. et al. in view of Pistoia. In response, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Claim 17 ultimately depends from claim 1, and includes the recitations therein. Applicants have pointed out earlier that Schlueter, Jr. et al. does not teach or suggest the claimed plasticizer. Applicants submit that Pistoia does not teach or suggest the deficiencies of the primary reference. Namely, Pistoia does not teach or suggest use of the claimed plasticizers.

In addition, Pistoia is in a different field of endeavor than Schlueter, Jr. et al. Schlueter, Jr. et al. relates to a polyimide puzzle cut seamed belt. On the other hand, Pistoia relates to a vanadate cathode active material. Obviously, Pistoia is not in the same field of endeavor as Schlueter, Jr. et al. Therefore, Applicants would not have been motivated to combine the references cited. Assuming, however, that the references were combined, neither reference teaches or suggests the claimed plasticizers of amended claims 1, from which claim 17 ultimately depends.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that claim 17 is not obvious in view of the cited references. Accordingly, Applications request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 17 under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Schlueter, Jr. et al. in view of Pistoia.

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Schlueter, Jr. et al. in view of Yamasaki, et al. In response, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Applicants point out that claim 13 ultimately depends from claim 1 and includes the recitations therein. Applicants have earlier pointed out that Schlueter, Jr. et al. does not teach or suggest the claimed plasticizers of amended claim 1. Applicants submit that Yamasaki, et al. does not teach the deficiencies of the primary reference. Namely, Yamasaki, et al. does not teach an adhesive comprising the plasticizer of amended claim 1.

In addition, Applicants submit that as with Pistoia, Yamasaki, et al. is also not in the same field of endeavor as Schlueter, Jr. et al., and one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the references. Yamasaki, et al. relates to an electrically conductive roller, whereas Schlueter, Jr. et al. relates to a polyimide seamed belt. Because of the distinguishing disclosures of the two references, Applicants submit that Yamasaki, et al. is not in the same field of endeavor as

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Schlueter, Jr. et al, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the references cited. However, if one of ordinary skill in the art were to combine the references, the combination would not include the recitations of claim 1 related to the plasticizer.

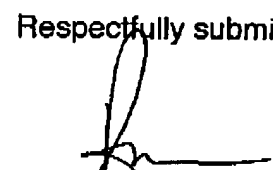
In view of the above, Applicants submit that claim 13 is not obvious in view of the cited combination. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Schlueter, Jr. et al. in view of Yamasaki, et al.

In view of the above arguments and amendments, Applicants submit that all claims should now be in condition for allowance. Early indication of allowability is respectfully requested.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney (or agent) hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, s/he is hereby authorized to call Applicant's Attorney, Annette L. Bade, at telephone number (310) 333-3682.

Respectfully submitted,



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